

H. Res. 505

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

September 23, 1998.

Whereas the South Pacific region covers an immense area of the earth, approximately 3 times the size of the contiguous United States;

Whereas the United States seeks to maintain strong and enduring economic, political, and strategic ties with the Pacific island countries of the region, despite the reduced diplomatic presence of the United States in the region since World War II;

Whereas Pacific island nations wield control over vast tracts of the ocean, including seabed minerals, fishing rights, and other marine resources which will play a major role in the future of the global economy;

Whereas access to these valuable resources will be vital in maintaining the position of the United States as the leading world power in the new millennium;

Whereas Asian countries have already recognized the important role that these Pacific island nations will play in the future of the global economy, as evidenced by the Tokyo summit meeting in October 1997 with various Pacific island heads of state;

Whereas the Pacific has long been regarded as one of the “last frontiers”, with an enormous wealth of uncultivated resources; and

Whereas direct United States participation in the human and natural resource development of the South Pacific region would promote beneficial ties with these Pacific island nations and increase the possibilities of access to the region’s valuable resources: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) it is in the national interest of the United
4 States to remain actively engaged in the South Pa-
5 cific region as a means of supporting important
6 United States commercial and strategic interests,
7 and to encourage the consolidation of democratic
8 values;

9 (2) a Pacific island summit, hosted by the
10 President of the United States with the Pacific is-
11 land heads of government, would be an excellent op-
12 portunity for the United States to foster and im-
13 prove diplomatic relations with the Pacific island na-
14 tions;

15 (3) through diplomacy and participation in the
16 human and natural resource development of the Pa-
17 cific region, the United States will increase the pos-
18 sibility of gaining access to valuable resources, thus
19 strengthening the position of the United States as a

1 world power economically and strategically in the
2 new millennium; and

3 (4) the United States should fulfill its long-
4 standing commitment to the democratization and
5 economic prosperity of the Pacific island nations by
6 promoting their earliest integration in the main-
7 stream of bilateral, regional, and global commerce
8 and trade.

Attest:

Clerk.